

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
El Dorado Irrigation District
Hazel Creek Tunnel Repair Project
FEMA-1155-DR-CA, DSR #00467, 52165, and 79461

The El Dorado Irrigation District (EID), through the California Office of Emergency Services (OES), has requested assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Public Assistance Program funding to repair and realign a portion of the Hazel Creek Tunnel. The funding is available under a Presidential disaster declaration (FEMA-1155-DR-CA) for the severe storms and flooding that affected the foothills of the Sierra Nevada in January 1997.

The severe storms in January 1997 caused a landslide that covered and blocked the outlet portal of the Hazel Creek Tunnel. The Hazel Creek Tunnel is designed to convey water and has been used by EID under drought conditions. Under the Proposed Action, EID would dewater the tunnel, stabilize the landslide area, clear the outlet portal headwall, extend the length of the tunnel past the landslide area, install a drainage pipe, and reconstruct the drainage channel downstream of the new tunnel outlet.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, FEMA has prepared a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Hazel Creek Tunnel Repair Project (December 2004) to evaluate the impacts of the Proposed Action on the human environment. The SEA tiers from the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Typical Recurring Actions Flood, Earthquake, Fire, Rain, and Wind Disasters in California (December 2003) as Proposed by FEMA. The SEA and PEA are available online at <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm>.

An initial public notice has been circulated explaining reasons for potentially siting part of the project in a wetland pursuant to Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetland). This Finding of No Significant Impact serves as the final notice for compliance with Executive Order 11990. Information required by 44 CFR Part 9.12(e) (Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands, Final Public Notice) is provided in the SEA.

Based upon the conditions and the information contained in the PEA and the SEA, and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 10 (Environmental Considerations) and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice), the following is concluded:

A Finding of No Significant Impact. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared, based on the fact that there will be no long-term adverse impacts to the natural environment resulting from the proposed action. For more information, contact the undersigned at (510) 627-7027. No action will be allowed to occur until 15 days after publication of this Finding of No Significant Impact.

 **DEC - 3 2004**
Alessandro Amaglio _____ Date
Region IX Environmental Officer